

North Carolina's Amtrak

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# The Rail Report

NCDOT Rail



February 2015

## FR&RCSI Funds Support New Business Opportunities at Port of Morehead City

The Board of Transportation in January approved up to \$250,000 in Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety (FR&RCSI) funds to support new business opportunities at the Port of Morehead City. The Port requested assistance to develop new high-capacity rail transloading capability to facilitate the transfer of bulk commodities. FR&RCSI is intended to support new economic development initiatives in North Carolina.

The Port of Morehead City supports 3,700 full-time jobs from activities related to goods moving through the port and \$1.1 billion in output by North Carolina businesses.



## NCDOT BeRailSafe Message Shared with more than 100,000 in 2014

It was a busy year for BeRailSafe, NCDOT's rail safety program. NCDOT Secretary Tony Tata tasked the department's Rail Division with developing a plan aimed at reducing and striving to eliminate fatalities and injuries associated with distracted driving and trespassing, as well as making the public more aware of the ever-present dangers of reckless behavior along and in the vicinity of railroad tracks. The division responded by embarking on engineering and safety actions along the Raleigh to Charlotte Piedmont corridor and in places where other Rail Division projects are being undertaken.

The safety initiative touched the lives of many North Carolinians in 2014. BeRailSafe, through training taught law enforcement, fire, rescue and EMS workers how to handle safety concerns regarding train collisions in their roles as first responders. The program also reached members of the public through safety fairs and festivals, motorist safety crossing stops, conferences and special events. "BeRailSafe's first responder training promotes numerous elements of safety for first responders and rail communities. By teaching the timely mitigation of incidents, we can minimize disruption of rail service, thereby also minimizing the negative economic impact that can stem from a delayed train," says Rail Safety Consultant Roger Smock.



## BeRailSafe 2014 Activity Summary

### Reaching the public:

- Delivered safety message to motorists through Crossing Blitzes, including ILCAD (International Level Crossing Awareness Day) event - **6,278**
- Conducted First Responder Training Sessions - **830**
- Wrote news article for Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal-reaches first responders throughout North Carolina and South Carolina - **30,000**
- Spoke at Community Presentations (including Train Hosts Conference) - **541**
- Conducted NCDOT and Right of Entry training workshops - **53**
- Participated in local community fairs and festivals, including National Train Day - **30,100**
- Participated in regional events - **4,500**
- Prepared and worked a booth at the North Carolina State Fair's "Safety City" - **35,000**
- Invited State Fair goers to sign a pledge not to trespass on North Carolina's railroad tracks - **1,000**

### Conferences and Partnerships:

- Worked with CSX Transportation, North Carolina Operation Lifesaver and NASCAR on railroad crossing safety event
- Partnered with City of Greensboro on Trespasser Safety Summit and effort
- Worked with Amtrak on first responder training sessions
- Partnered with NC chapter of AARP on presentations
- Attended N.C. Operation Lifesaver Council meetings
- SAFRE - South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo
- State Safety and Wellness Expo

## Rail Director Paul Worley speaks at Best of Our State Conference in Asheville

*The Best of Our State, A Weekend Celebration of North Carolina*, has been held for 17 years now at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. A host of speakers and musicians shared information and entertained the 800 plus guests who love all things North Carolina – past, present and future. Rail Director Paul Worley was one of several speakers for the event. His presentation covered the role of freight and passenger rail services in the development of our state's economy starting with helping to awaken the sleeping Rip Van Winkle. The guests traveled with Worley through the golden age of railroads, the decline of passenger services and then the rebuilding of the services, equipment and stations that are available today.

The presentation was followed with a question and answer session that generated good questions and positive feedback about North Carolina's Amtrak. We are expecting to see many of the *Best of Our State* participants riding our trains soon.

## North Carolina's Amtrak launches new Facebook Page

North Carolina's Amtrak is now on Facebook. The page, which launched this month, is a one-stop-shop for all the information needed about taking the train in North Carolina. The page features information on destinations, tickets, specials and promotions, as well as what to do in various cities along the rail corridor and events of interest taking place in cities along the corridor each month.

"With the launch of a better social media presence, we hope to improve communications and customer service with the goals of increasing ridership and revenue. By connecting with people already riding the train and people who may have never considered it, we can showcase the rail experience and give better, up to the minute information to those planning a trip," said Rail Director Paul Worley. Search for North Carolina's Amtrak on Facebook, or visit [facebook.com/NCAmtrak](https://facebook.com/NCAmtrak), and "like" the page. North Carolina's Amtrak is also on Twitter at @ncdot\_rail.

## NCDOT Works With N.C. State to Make Trains More Environmentally Friendly

The N.C. Department of Transportation is taking steps to make its passenger trains



**NC CLEAN ENERGY**  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
*Formerly the NC Solar Center*

more environmentally friendly. In upcoming months the NCDOT Rail Division will work with North Carolina State University's Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project and the N.C. Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program to reduce the environmental footprint of N.C. Department of Transportation trains.



NCSU's Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project and North Carolina's Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant will allow the N.C. Department of Transportation to equip one of its F59PH locomotives with a "Selective Catalytic Reduction Aftertreatment System." This system should improve the locomotive's emissions rating from "Tier Zero Plus" to a "Tier Three"

rating. The "Selective Catalytic Reduction Aftertreatment System" is designed to significantly reduce particulate matter found in diesel engine exhausts.

The N.C. Emissions Reduction Grant Program is an EPA grant that is administered by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality. The grant provides incentive funding for projects that are designed to reduce diesel emissions.


The Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Project is administered by the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center and is focused on the reduction of transportation related emissions in NC counties that do not meet national air quality standards.


If the Selective Catalytic Reduction system installation proves successful, the N.C. Department of Transportation will seek additional funding to upgrade all of its locomotives with this promising system.





## Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – November 2014 vs. 2013

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2014	2013	% +/-	2014	2013	% +/-
Piedmont	15,384	15,653	-2%	\$325,330	\$311,728	4%
Carolinian	24,920	20,832	20%	\$1,614,300	\$1,266,033	28%



### CURRENT TRAVEL DEALS

**1** Simple and stress free.



**BRING A FRIEND & GET 30% off A COMPANION TICKET**

USE FARE CODE **V546** WHEN BUYING YOUR TICKET.

Offer good for travel February 5 – March 31, 2015 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Minimum three day advance purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. Visit [ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org) for details.

Piedmont™ and Carolinian™ are operated as a partnership between Amtrak and NCDOT. Amtrak is a registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

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## NC Volunteer Train Host President Bob Warner featured in Cary Living Magazine

When Bob Warner retired from IBM, he never dreamed he would be so busy with volunteer activities in his community and across the State of North Carolina as well. Bob is featured, along with several other very active Cary community retirees, in the January/February issue of Cary Living in an article entitled "Don't Retire, Re-Launch."

For six years, Bob has been a Volunteer Train Host, and was elected President of the group this past year. In addition to volunteering on the Piedmont and Carolinian trains, train hosts also can be found across the state working at booths at festivals, sporting and other events promoting North Carolina's Amtrak service.



The Rail Division appreciates the work of this dedicated group of volunteers who so faithfully serve as "North Carolina's Goodwill Ambassadors." For information on becoming a train host, contact Alison Boswell at (919) 707-4701.

## 2 College Student? Get 15% Off Your Ticket!

Offer valid through April 25.

North Carolina's Amtrak is the perfect mode of travel for college students attending universities along the N.C. rail corridor. It's a simple, stress-free way to travel, and you can stay connected to all your devices during the journey – text, Instagram, catch up on schoolwork or just play on your tablet. Now through April 25, get 15% off by using discount code V632 when booking your ticket.



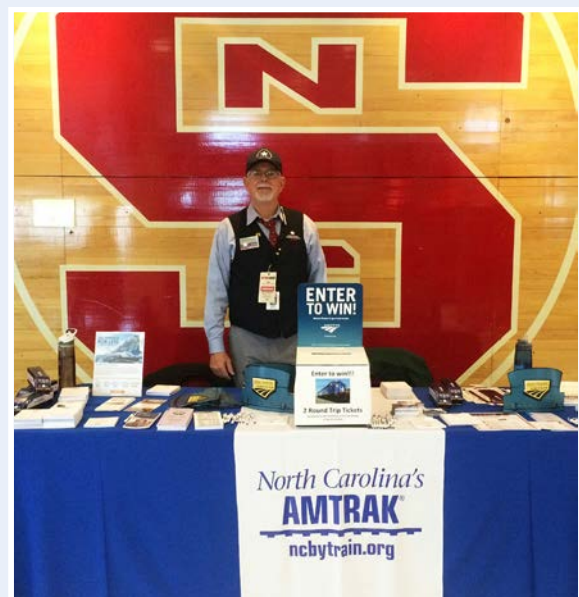
## EVERYDAY DISCOUNTS

### Travel often? NC Multiride is the Ticket for you!

Frequent travelers and commuters save with the NC Multiride ticket, good for 15% off 10 one-way trips, or five round-trips on all North Carolina city pairs on the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian*. No reservations required. Ticket is valid for six months, non-transferrable, and not valid with other discounts or promotions. For details or to purchase your ticket [ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org).

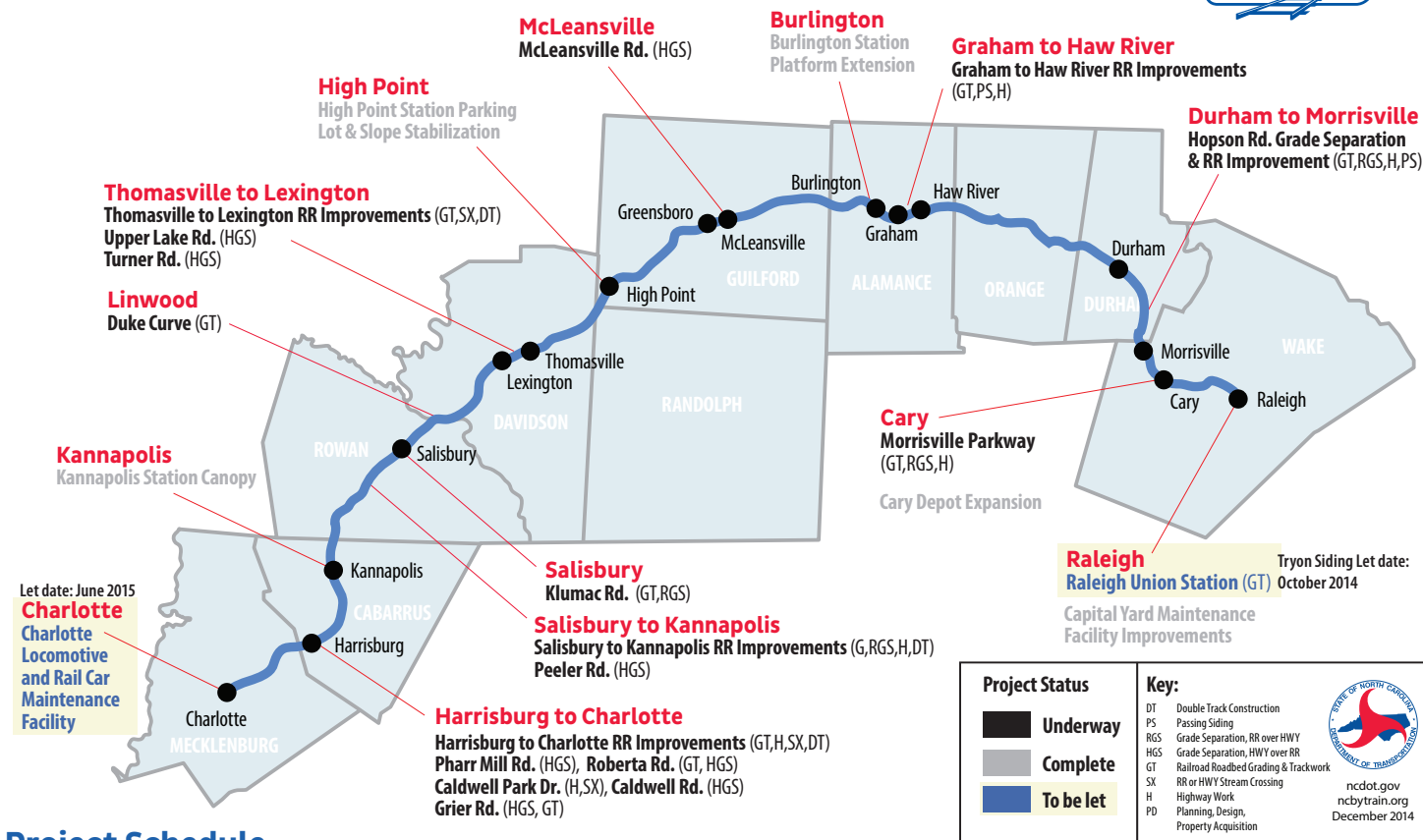


Look for the NC's Amtrak table at sporting events along the Piedmont Corridor and enter for a chance to win a trip for two anywhere in North Carolina on the Piedmont or Carolinian.

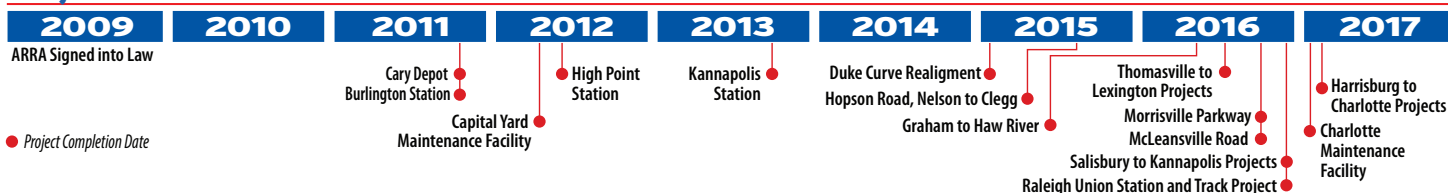


Robert "Sarge" Sweeney staffed a table at the recent NCSU Duke basketball game at the PNC arena, which seats 19,722 for basketball games – a great place to spread the word about NC's Amtrak.

# Piedmont Improvement Program – December 2014 Status Report



## Project Schedule



## ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 12/31/2014)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$43,701,833.14
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$26,156,375.38
Stations & Facilities	\$11,116,721.63
Track & Structures	\$127,603,159.30
CRISP	\$2,180,376.32
<b>Program Totals</b>	<b>\$218,677,239.39</b> of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds
New ARRA Contracts Awarded in December: 10 contracts worth \$4,272,965	



P-5204 Clearing and grading for McLeansville Road bridge



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Grading



# Piedmont Improvement Program MILESTONES

## Thomasville to Lexington:

- The **Turner Road Bridge** was completed and opened to traffic in December. *(right)* Underneath the new bridge and throughout the 4 mile project, roadbed construction for the new track is complete and track construction has begun.
- **Bowers to Lake Double Track** project, construction of the roadbed for the new track has been largely completed and track construction has begun.



## Harrisburg

- Construction of the Caldwell Park Drive Extension is complete. *(right)* This new road allows for the removal of two private and one public at-grade crossings, improving safety and access to the area.
- Track construction necessary to complete the Roberta Road bridge *(right)* project has begun. The new track allows for the removal of the existing track and completion of the final span of the bridge.



## Charlotte

- Construction on the railroad bridge for the future Mallard Creek Church Road extension has begun. *(below)*



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, Erosion Control



U-4716 Hopson Road bridge construction



## Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – December 2014



C-4901 Bowers to Lake - View of grading for double track from newly-completed Upper Lake Road Bridge



C-4901 Bowers to Lake - Abbotts Creek Bridge construction



U-3459 Klumac Road pier construction



P-5206 Haydock to Junker - track construction, CP Shamrock



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Pharr Mill Road Bridge



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Construction of retaining walls